

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A blood flow amount estimating apparatus, comprising:
a blood pressure related information obtaining means for obtaining blood pressure related information that is related to a first blood pressure of a first portion of the subject;
a pulse wave detecting device which detects a pulse wave from the first portion;
an arteriosclerosis related information obtaining means for obtaining, based on the pulse wave detected by the pulse wave detecting device, arteriosclerosis related information that is related to arteriosclerosis;
an output device; and
an output-device control means for controlling the output device to output a graph which has an axis indicative of blood pressure related information and an axis indicative of arteriosclerosis related information and indicates that blood flow amount changes with respective changes of blood pressure related information and arteriosclerosis related information, and additionally output, in the graph, a symbol representing the blood pressure related information obtained by the blood pressure related information obtaining means and the arteriosclerosis related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis related information obtaining means.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the blood pressure related information obtaining means comprises:

a carotid pulse wave detecting device which is adapted to be pressed on a cervical portion of the subject as the first portion of the subject and detects a pressure pulse wave produced from a carotid artery of the cervical portion;

a cuff which is adapted to be worn on a brachial portion of the subject as a second portion of the subject;

a brachial blood pressure determining means for determining a plurality of brachial blood pressure values of the brachial portion, based on a first heartbeat synchronous signal detected from the brachial portion when a pressure in the cuff is changed; and

a cervical blood pressure determining means for determining,

as the blood pressure related information, a cervical blood pressure of the cervical portion, based on a minimum magnitude, an area-gravity-center magnitude, and a maximum magnitude of the carotid pulse wave detected by the carotid pulse wave detecting device, and the brachial blood pressure values determined by the brachial blood pressure determining means, and

wherein the pulse wave detecting device comprises the carotid pulse wave detecting device of the blood pressure related information obtaining means.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second heartbeat synchronous signal detecting device which detects a second heartbeat synchronous signal from a third portion of the subject, wherein the arteriosclerosis related information obtaining means obtains, based on the pulse wave detected by the pulse wave detecting device and the second heartbeat synchronous signal detected by the second heartbeat synchronous signal detecting device, the arteriosclerosis related information comprising pulse wave propagation velocity related information that is related to a velocity at which the pulse wave propagates in the first portion of the subject.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the blood pressure related information obtaining means comprises a blood pressure measuring device which non-invasively measures a second blood pressure of a second portion of the subject, wherein the blood pressure related information obtaining means obtaining, based on the second blood pressure measured by the blood pressure measuring device, the blood pressure related information that is related to the first blood pressure of the first portion of the subject.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a display device which displays the graph and additionally displays, in the graph, the symbol representing the blood pressure related information and the arteriosclerosis related information.

6. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the second heartbeat synchronous signal detecting device comprises a heart sound

microphone which detects, as the second heartbeat synchronous signal, a heart sound from a heart of the subject as the third portion of the subject.

7. A blood flow amount estimating apparatus, comprising:

a blood pressure related information obtaining device which obtains blood pressure related information that is related to a first blood pressure of a first portion of the subject;

a pulse wave detecting device which detects a pulse wave from the first portion;

an arteriosclerosis related information obtaining device which obtains, based on the pulse wave detected by the pulse wave detecting device, arteriosclerosis related information that is related to arteriosclerosis;

an output device; and

an output-device control device which controls the output device to output a graph which has an axis indicative of blood pressure related information and an axis indicative of arteriosclerosis related information and indicates that blood flow amount changes with respective changes of blood pressure related information and arteriosclerosis related information, and additionally output, in the graph, a symbol representing the blood pressure related information obtained by the blood pressure related information obtaining device and the arteriosclerosis related information obtained by the arteriosclerosis related information obtaining device.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the blood pressure related information obtaining device comprises:

a carotid pulse wave detecting device which is adapted to be pressed on a cervical portion of the subject as the first portion of the subject and detects a pressure pulse wave produced from a carotid artery of the cervical portion;

a cuff which is adapted to be worn on a brachial portion of the subject as a second portion of the subject;

a brachial blood pressure determining device which determines a plurality of brachial blood pressure values of the brachial portion, based on a first heartbeat synchronous signal detected from the brachial portion when a pressure in the cuff is changed; and

a cervical blood pressure determining device which determines, as the blood pressure related information, a cervical blood pressure of the cervical portion, based on a minimum magnitude, an area-gravity-center magnitude, and a maximum magnitude of the carotid pulse wave detected by the carotid pulse wave detecting device, and the brachial blood pressure values determined by the brachial blood pressure determining device, and

wherein the pulse wave detecting device comprises the carotid pulse wave detecting device of the blood pressure related information obtaining device.